

D.) AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

None.

E.) REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed contemporaneously with this RCE Application to amend the claims to better define Applicant's invention.

Entry of this Preliminary Amendment is requested.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 28 to more clearly present Applicant's invention. In particular, the Applicant has included limitations including having the nonwoven mat compressed between an interface of adjacent perform lamina. No new matter has been added by these amendments. In addition, Applicant has amended dependent claims 3, 4, 5, 8-13, 19 and 29-31 to conform to the new limitations presented in amended independent claims 1 and 28 to conform to antecedent basis. No new matter has been entered by these amendments. Applicant has cancelled claims 2, 5, 6 and 7 by this amendment.

Upon entry of this Response, claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 8-20 and 28-31 will be pending in the Application.

Furthermore, Applicant incorporates the Remarks of the July 18, 2007, including the summary of the prior art used in the Final Rejection of April 18, 2007, herein by reference.

In summary, dependent claims 1 and 18 are believed to be allowable for the reasons given above. In addition, claims 3, 4, 5 8-17, 19, 20 and 29-31 recite further limitations that distinguish over the art applied in the Final Rejection of April 18, 2007.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Application and withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections. As a result of the amendments and remarks presented herein, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 8-20 and 28-31 are in condition for allowance. As the claims are not anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of the applied art, Applicant requests allowance of claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 8-20 and 28-31 in a timely manner. If the Examiner believes that prosecution of this Application could be expedited by a telephone conference, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the Applicant.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1059.

Respectfully submitted,
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